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THE URBAN DISTRICT OF DRIFFIELD

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

For the Year 1945.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1945:—

1.—General Statistics:

Area (acres) 2,420. Average number of persons per inhabited building, 3.30. Total number of separate occupiers, 1,880. Rateable value, £29,197. Sum represented by a penny rate, £120/3/0½.

2.—Extracts from Vital Statistics:

The Registrar General estimates the resident population at 6,207.

Births:

During the year there were 120 births registered (53 males and 67 females) compared with 101 (53 males and 48 females) last year. Legitimate 100 (42 males and 58 females), illegitimate 20 (11 males and 9 females). The birthrate was 19.35 per 1,000. Last year it was 16.83. For England and Wales the birthrate was 16.1 per 1,000 total population. Stillbirths in the district 2 (1 legitimate male and 1 legitimate female).

Deaths:

During the year there were 97 deaths (54 males and 43 females). The deathrate was 15.64 per 1,000. Last year the deathrate was 15.16 per 1,000. The number of deaths of infants under 1 year was 5 (4 males and 1 female). The deathrate of infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births was 41.66. For England and Wales it was 46 per 1,000.

The causes of death were:—

	Total	Males	Females
Whooping Cough	1	1	-
Tuberculosis of resp. system	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, other forms	-	-	-
Syphilitic Diseases	-	-	-
Influenza	1	-	1
Cancer, all forms	16	11	5
Diabetes	-	-	-
Inter-cranial vascular lesions	8	3	5
Heart Disease	31	18	13
Other Diseases of circ. system	3	1	2
Bronchitis	4	4	0
Pneumonia	3	2	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	1	-
Appendicitis	-	-	-
Other digestive diseases	-	-	-
Nephritis	2	1	1
Premature Birth	-	-	-
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries, etc.	3	2	1

Accident	2	2	-
Other causes	22	8	14
Deaths of infants under 1 year (legitimate)	4	3	1
do. (illegitimate)	1	1	-

3.—Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1945:

	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Whooping Cough	9	-	1
Scarlet Fever	18	17	-
Diphtheria	7	7	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-
Measles	155	-	-
Pneumonia	5	-	3
Dysentry	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Other diseases generally notifiable	1	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1945.

	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	RESPIRATORY.		NON-RESPIRATORY.		RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY.	
Age Period.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	-
10-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	6	2	1	2	-	-	1	-

The efficiency of notification of Tuberculosis in the area is well maintained.

4. An Association is in operation in the town known as the Driffield Nursing Association by whom a full-time nurse is employed whose services are available to subscribers. Very good work is being done by the nurse.

In addition one C.M.B. nurse is working in the District.

Maternity and Child Welfare:—

There is a Home in Driffield with 12 beds for lying-in cases. There is also a Maternity Ward in the Driffield Public Assistance Institution.

Diphtheria—Immunisation.

The number of children undergoing immunisation against Diphtheria remains at a considerably high level and it is estimated that of the children in the town of school age and under, about 794 have received treatment.

Tuberculosis Clinics: Clinic belonging to County Council available once a week in Beverley.

Mental Diseases Clinic: Weekly at East Riding Mental Hospital, Beverley.

Orthopaedic Cases: Clinic monthly at Maternity Home, Driffield. Venereal Diseases treated in Hull Royal Infirmary and York County Hospital free of charge.

Bacteriological Examinations carried out at the Scarborough North Riding Laboratory and the Laboratory at the Beverley Base Hospital.

Hospitals:

The Sanatorium at Raywell belonging to the County Council is open to the district and East Riding generally. There is an Isolation Hospital for infectious diseases at Driffield open to the East Riding.

Small-pox:

The County Council has a Small-pox Hospital at Shipton for the whole district. There is a motor ambulance kept in Driffield for cases of infectious diseases.

Ambulance:

Whilst no ambulance service is provided by the Local authority, a whole-time C.D. ambulance has been made available for accident cases and there is also a privately owned ambulance in the town.

Schools:

The sanitary condition and water supply (which is from the mains of the Driffield Water Company) of the Public Elementary Schools is good.

5.—Drainage and Sewerage:

There has been no extension of the sewers during the year. The sewage disposal works have been maintained as efficiently as possible, but considerable improvements to the plant are desired. The Council has engaged the services of a consulting engineer to prepare a report on the sewerage system of the town and the sewage disposal works with a view to the carrying out of certain improvement works.

Closet Accommodation:

The Council, in 1944, decided to make a grant under section 47 (4) of the Public Health Act, 1936, towards the cost of conversion of earth closets, and during the year 115 conversions have taken place. 862 earth closets are still in use at the end of the year.

Public Cleansing:

Scavenging of both nightsoil and refuse is undertaken throughout the town, and consists of a weekly collection of nightsoil, and in certain cases a twice weekly collection.

Refuse is divided into two categories viz., non-salvageable and salvageable. A bi-weekly collection is maintained of each type, which amounts to a weekly collection of Household Refuse. A weekly collection of non-salvageable refuse is carried out in Middle Street only.

The amount of salvage disposed of during the year was made up as follows:—

Flattened tins, £16/18/0.
Ferrous scrap, £4/16/0.
Mixed waste paper, £27/18/0.
Jars, 2,546.
Textiles and bagging, £1/15/6.
Household bones, £1/1/0.

The total value of this salvage amounted to £257/7/7.

Food inspection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector who is the authorised officer for the purpose.

Meat inspection is carried out by Mr. W. P. Isherwood, M.R.C.V.S.

6.—Water Supply:

The principal supply to the town is by means of the Driffield Water Company. In addition there are about 150 private pumps in the district, the majority of which are connected to bores sunk into the chalk to a depth of approximately 45 feet.

Samples of water (both chlorinated and unchlorinated) from the Company's supply are sent for analysis every month, and these show the water to be of excellent purity. Whilst the level at the Company's pumping stations has over the past few years been slightly lowered, no shortage has yet been experienced.

Chlorination of the piped supply is still maintained, and a number of samples of water from private pumps have been submitted for bacteriological examination to the North Riding Laboratories at Scarborough as follows:—

Total number of samples submitted	58
Number of repeat samples	3
Number of pumps tested	58

Result of Analysis.

Number of pumps found to be unfit for domestic use, 11 serving 36 houses.

Number of pumps slightly polluted but safe, 6 serving 27 houses.
Number of pumps supplying good water, 41 serving 96 houses.

Informal action was taken in respect of the 6 Unfit Samples and in 4 cases a service has been laid on from the Water Company's mains. No water main is available in respect of the other 2 cases, but the Water Company have prepared a scheme to extend the main to this district. Piped supplies were also laid to 4 cases of unfit pumps sampled in 1944.

Of the 6 slightly polluted samples, 3 were repeat samples from the previous year, but did not show any deterioration in the purity of the water. Owners and occupiers were notified in the other 3 cases.

7.—Housing:

The War has prevented any new houses being erected and the condition of the old houses is deteriorating due to lack of labour and materials to maintain them in a proper manner.

There is a great deal of overcrowding in the town, the new houses are needed as soon as possible, to provide the improved housing conditions necessary.

Since the outbreak of war, routine housing inspection has of necessity been greatly curtailed, but informal action has been taken when complaints have been received.

Dwelling houses inspected	43
Number of subsequent visits	34
Informal notices served	20
Informal notices complied with	20

8.—Milk Supply:

Number of Dairies and Cowsheds on Register	21
Number of Cows	218
Inspections made	28
Defects found	4
Defects remedied	4
Number of milk samples sent for examination (Methylene Blue Reduction and Phosphatase Tests).	5

One sample did not satisfy the Methylene Blue Reduction Test and one sample did not satisfy the Phosphatase Test.

9.	Statutory notices served	2
	Earthclosets converted to Waterclosets	115
	New houses built	-

10.—Disinfection and Disinfestation:

Houses disinfected after infectious disease	25
Schools disinfected	1
Houses disinfested—Eradication of bugs, etc.	9

11.—Nuisances:

Total number of nuisances found	19
Total number of nuisances remedied	19
Number of informal notices served for provision of sanitary pans and dustbins	48

12.—Water Supplies:

Houses newly supplied from water mains	75
Other premises	4
New wells made	-
New bore holes made	-
Bores closed owing to water being unsafe	4
Samples of water sent for bacteriological examination	58

13.—Factories and Workshops:

Inspection of Factories	25
Inspection of Workshops	12
Defects found, defective sanitary accommodation	5
Defects remedied	4

14.—Swimming Baths and Pools:

There is one privately owned open air swimming pool in the town and this has been maintained at a high degree of cleanliness.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN W. THOMAS,

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1946.